

Wissahickon Faith Community Association
Thanksgiving Community Service

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – 7 pm



Hosted by
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Maple Glen, PA

Prelude *Behold the Heavens* by Kathleen Wissinger
Joyful Ringers – First Presbyterian Church of Ambler – Led by Michael Joy

Welcome Rev. Rodney Roehner
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Maple Glen

Opening Song *Os Justi* by Anton Bruckner
Wissahickon High School Camerata – Led by John Conahan

Call to Worship (Psalm 9:1-2, 9-10) Rabbi Gregory Marx
Congregation Beth Or, Maple Glen

Leader We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart;

People **We will recount all of your wonderful deeds.**

Leader We will be glad and exult in you;

People **We will sing praise to our name, O Most High.**

Leader The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,

People **A stronghold in times of trouble.**

Leader And those who know your name put their trust in you,

People **For you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

Invocation Pastor Enten Eller
Ambler Church of the Brethren

The Road Not Taken (from the choral cycle ‘Frostiana’) by Randall Thompson
Wissahickon High School Camerata – Led by John Conahan

Confession Led by Pastor Mary Eller
Ambler Church of the Brethren

All Most merciful God, source of all that is good, we come before you this night with grateful and thankful hearts for our countless blessings. Yet we humbly confess that we have not loved you and one another as we should. We are sorry for our part in the divisions, wastefulness, and indifference that divides our world. Forgive us for the times we’ve neglected those in need, for the times we’ve been complacent with injustice, and for the ways we focus solely on ourselves. Lord, help us to see your presence in all around us.

Leader As God forgives and restores in his unquenchable love for us, may we share those blessings with one another in peace, unity, and gratitude.

People **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Psalm 100

**Pastor Michelle Curtis
Ambler Mennonite Church**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Hinei Mah Tov (How good and nice it is for all of us to be together) **Traditional
Adult Choir of Congregation Beth Or – Led by Jaime Murley**

Deuteronomy 8:7-11

**Pastor Andreas Wagner
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Wales**

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws, and his decrees.

Message

Thanksgiving and Gratitude

**Rev. Monica C. Hall
Spiritual Care, Foulkeways at Gwynedd**

Offering Invitation

Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard

Offertory Anthem

Let There Be Love

by **Noah Aronson**

Adult Choir of Congregation Beth Or – Led by Jaime Murley

Let there be love and understanding among us.
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from life's storms.

Litany

Rev. Emmanuel Williamson
Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler

Let us give thanks to the God of Creation for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth, sky and sea.

We give thanks.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men, women, and children, who reveal the image of God to all of us.

We give thanks.

For our daily food and drink; for our homes, families, and friends.

We give thanks.

For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We give thanks.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We give thanks.

For our brothers and sisters living in war torn countries, give us the strength and courage to find ways to give them the support they need: physically, spiritually and emotionally.

We give thanks.

For the brave and courageous, for those who are patient in suffering, and faithful in adversity,

We give thanks.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We give thanks.

For the faithful of every generation that have guided and encouraged us by their faithfulness, witness and teaching: at all times and in all places,
We give thanks.

For the great diversity that we experience through each other regardless of our race, religious or family traditions; give us the courage to uplift and support one other as we seek your will in our lives, each in our own way.
We give thanks.

Above all, we come to you in great appreciation for the great mercies and promises given to us in the possibilities of your Creation; **Together we lift our voices to God in thanksgiving, praise and glory; today and always. Amen.**

Hymn *We All Stand Together* by Steve Dropkin
Cantor Stephen Freedman – Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El,
Elkins Park

**When we all stand together, we change the way we live,
Begin to stop the hatred, start reaching out to give.
When we all stand together, no matter race or skin,
Then we can learn forever how peace and love begin.**

Refrain: **When we all stand together, we all stand together.**

**When we all stand together, and look into our souls,
And discover in the future, there's a world to behold.
When we all stand together each gathered in our homes,
And find our family unity as one, but not alone.**

Refrain: **When we all stand together, we all stand together.**

**When we all stand together, we'll open up our hearts
And light the burning passion to go and do our part.
When we all stand together, believe in what we pray,
Deliver on a promise to find a better way!**

When we all stand together, fulfill our hopes and dreams,
As we repair the world, every shattered piece.
When we all stand together, and we learn to sing along,
Miracles can happen, and together we'll be strong!

Refrain: When we all stand together, we all stand together.

Benediction

Rabbi Alanna Sklover

Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Congregation, Fort Washington

Closing Blessing

Cantor Stephen Freedman

BIRKAT KOHANIM - THE BLESSING OF THE PRIESTS - בְּרַכַּת כֹּהֲנִים

יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ.

Y'va-re-ch'-cha A-do-nai v'yish-m're-cha.

May God bless you and keep you.

יְאֵר יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנֶּךָ.

Ya-eir A-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-cha vi-chu-neh-ka.

May God's light shine upon you, and may God be gracious to you.

יֵשָׁא יי פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

Yi-sa A-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-cha v'ya-seim l'cha sha-lom.

May you feel God's presence within you always, and may you find peace.

Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth

arranged by Brenda Austin

Joyful Ringers – First Presbyterian Church of Ambler – Led by Michael Joy

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Many thanks to those who prepared and participated in this service:

The leaders and members of the congregations
in the Wissahickon Faith Community

The musicians and singers: Congregation Beth Or Adult Choir, Joyful Ringers,
Cantor Stephen Freedman, and the Wissahickon High School Camerata

Those who offered refreshments

Those who gave offerings for Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for hosting

As you exit this sanctuary this evening:

Please take a prayer card on the back table prepared by
Mr. Bill O'Brien, Spiritual Teacher and Coach

You are welcome to a prayer shawl square made by
the knitting ministry at St. Matthew's, Maple Glen

Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall

Above all, may God richly bless you and yours on this Thanksgiving holiday!

